



March 21, 2014

To: Executive Board

Subject: **Request to Issue RFP – SMART*Bus* Software and Equipment Replacement**

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### **Recommendation**

Authorize the Executive Director to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 14-031 for SMART*Bus* Software and Equipment Replacement.

### **Analysis**

Foothill Transit's current computer-aided dispatch and automatic vehicle location (CAD/AVL) system, dubbed "SMART*Bus* System" or SBS, was procured in 2005 and implemented in 2007. In the intervening years since 2007, Foothill Transit has benefited from its implementation of SBS in the areas of operations, by providing communications, vehicle locations, and data collection during revenue service. Dispatchers and Customer Service Representatives utilize the automatic vehicle location functionality to direct bus movement and to assist customers with information regarding the arrival time for the next bus for their bus stop. The system also includes on-board video cameras and recorders for safety and incident reporting and the passenger counters are used to assist with route planning. Foothill Transit staff uses the data collected and compiled by TransTrack to report on the organization's key performance indicators, to identify efficient and deficient routes, and many other elements.

Notwithstanding these benefits, Foothill Transit's SBS is now nearing its end of life and with recent technology advances, much more robust and customer-friendly options are available. These include:

- enhanced GPS accuracy
- on board voice announcements capability to wirelessly send detour, schedule or emergency information to customers
- bus management system which provides alerts to dispatch and maintenance staff on required preventive maintenance, system defects and other immediate service needs
- real time boarding and alighting information at each stop
- live video streaming capabilities for law enforcement and operations while bus is in service
- streamlined process for headsign updates and management



At the January 21, 2014 Strategic Planning Workshop, the Board discussed the issues with the current SMART*Bus* radios and CAD\AVL system including the GPS system. Staff was recommended to begin the process of replacing the outdated Xerox CAD\AVL system and radios.

The scope of services for a SMART*Bus* software and equipment replacement project will include the removal of the existing Xerox CAD\AVL system and back-end servers and replacing them with a new CAD\AVL system using cellular technology. In addition, the voice radios currently installed on buses would be replaced, as the current radios are now obsolete. Staff is currently investigating the possibility of Foothill Transit joining the Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICIS) network. The ICIS is a Joint Powers Agency, conceived in order to develop a regional communications platform for agencies in the Los Angeles area. If that approach is feasible, the current radio frequency service supplier would be replaced with the ICIS.

#### **Budget Impact**

The budget impact associated with replacing the SMART*Bus* and radio equipment is approximately ten million dollars (\$10,000,000). If approved, funds will be programmed in the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donald Luey".

Donald Luey  
Director of Information Technology

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doran J. Barnes".

Doran J. Barnes  
Executive Director